

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 35

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003

INTRODUCED BY

Rick Miera

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

**REQUESTING A STUDY OF THE TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION OF
EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANTS.**

**WHEREAS, it is recognized that the role of educational
assistants in the public school classroom is an important
aspect of a child's education; and**

**WHEREAS, educational assistants are considered
paraprofessionals who must possess the training and expertise
required to perform their jobs in a quality manner; and**

**WHEREAS, the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001
requires that all educational assistants have at least a high
school diploma, and that those educational assistants serving
in schools that receive Title 1 funds meet one of the following
qualifications:**

- A. have completed at least two years of post-**

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 secondary study;

2 B. have obtained an associate's or higher degree;
3 or

4 C. have met a rigorous standard of quality and can
5 demonstrate, through a formal state or local academic
6 assessment, knowledge of and the ability to assist in the
7 instruction of reading, writing and mathematics; and

8 WHEREAS, the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001
9 requires that all educational assistants hired after the
10 enactment of that act must meet at least one of the
11 requirements previously noted, and that existing educational
12 assistants meet one of the above requirements no later than
13 four years after the date of enactment; and

14 WHEREAS, approximately five thousand six hundred
15 educational assistants provided instructional services in New
16 Mexico's public schools during the 2000-2001 school year; and

17 WHEREAS, educational assistants, under the direct
18 supervision of a teacher, tutor and assist children in
19 classroom instruction; record grades; set up equipment; help
20 prepare materials for instruction; and supervise students in
21 the classroom, cafeteria and on the playground; and

22 WHEREAS, a survey of New Mexico school districts revealed
23 that over one-half of the state's educational assistants have
24 instructional duties in programs supported by Title 1 funds;
25 and

. 144297. 1

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 WHEREAS, despite the responsibilities placed upon them,
2 New Mexico's educational assistants' average annual salary is
3 so low, at twelve thousand five hundred fifty dollars
4 (\$12,550), that many qualify for public assistance; and

5 WHEREAS, an estimated ninety-five percent of New Mexico's
6 educational assistants who provide Title 1 or special education
7 services in classrooms do not meet the qualifications set forth
8 in the federal act;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
10 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state department of public
11 education, in cooperation with the commission on higher
12 education, be requested to study the training and certification
13 of educational assistants and identify needs and resources
14 related to improving their knowledge, skills and status, in
15 light of the requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind
16 Act of 2001; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state department of public
18 education and the commission on higher education submit
19 findings and recommendations to the legislative education study
20 committee no later than November 1, 2003; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
22 transmitted to the commission on higher education, the state
23 department of public education and the legislative education
24 study committee for appropriate distribution.

25